

(c) and (d). Under the news Trade Policy, while imports of primary copper against EXIM Scrips have been allowed, the small scale units have been permitted to import against supplementary licences with free foreign exchange.

Assistance to Iran for Development of Agriculture

4538. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has sought the Indian assistance for the development of agriculture in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mutual agreement has been reached between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof:

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Iran desires cooperation with India in the field of agricultural research and training involving exchanges of scientists and experts, higher education facilities for Iranian students and experts in various disciplines in India, technology exchanges, collaborative research projects, and exchanges of publications and research materials.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding between Iran and India for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education was concluded at Tehran on 11 November, 1991.

Pipeline from Haldia to Barauni

4539. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to implement the project proposal of laying a pipeline from Haldia to Barauni; and

(b) the details of the cost escalation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation is examining various options in this regard.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG Agencies in Orissa

4540. SHRINANI BHATTACHARYA: SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation from the Members of Parliament regarding allotment of petrol pumps and LPG gas agencies in Jagmohanpur, Bramnial and Ghotegoan in Keonjhar District of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Representations are received regularly for opening of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in different places of the country including those in Orissa. The oil companies on the